



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DGS, Capitol Police to close portion of Bank Street to create pedestrian plaza for staff, visitors

~ Traffic changes in place through end of General Assembly session ~

RICHMOND – The Department of General Services (DGS) and the Division of Capitol Police (DCP) today announced changes to Bank Street to protect pedestrians during the upcoming General Assembly session.

The General Assembly's temporary move to the Pocahontas Building is expected to create a substantial amount of pedestrian traffic between that building and the Capitol Extension entrance on Bank Street. Realizing this, the General Assembly gave DGS and Capitol Police control of the street from December 1 until the end of the legislative session each year while the General Assembly occupies the Pocahontas Building.

Beginning December 2, DGS and Capitol Police will create a pedestrian plaza from The Commonwealth (formerly Commonwealth Park Suites Hotel) to North 10th Street on Bank Street between the Pocahontas Building and the public Capitol Extension entrance. The plaza will serve as a safe space for members of the public, administration, legislators, state employees,

teen pages and the media to move between the two buildings and for school groups and other tours to load and unload.

Capitol Police will close Bank Street from 9th to 12th streets on December 2 to put in place temporary bollards, automatic gates and other features to create the pedestrian plaza. Once the plaza has been setup, Bank Street will reopen to one-way traffic, from west to east, beginning at 10th Street. Traffic calming measures will be placed on the north and south sides of the Bank Street.

Bank Street changes include:

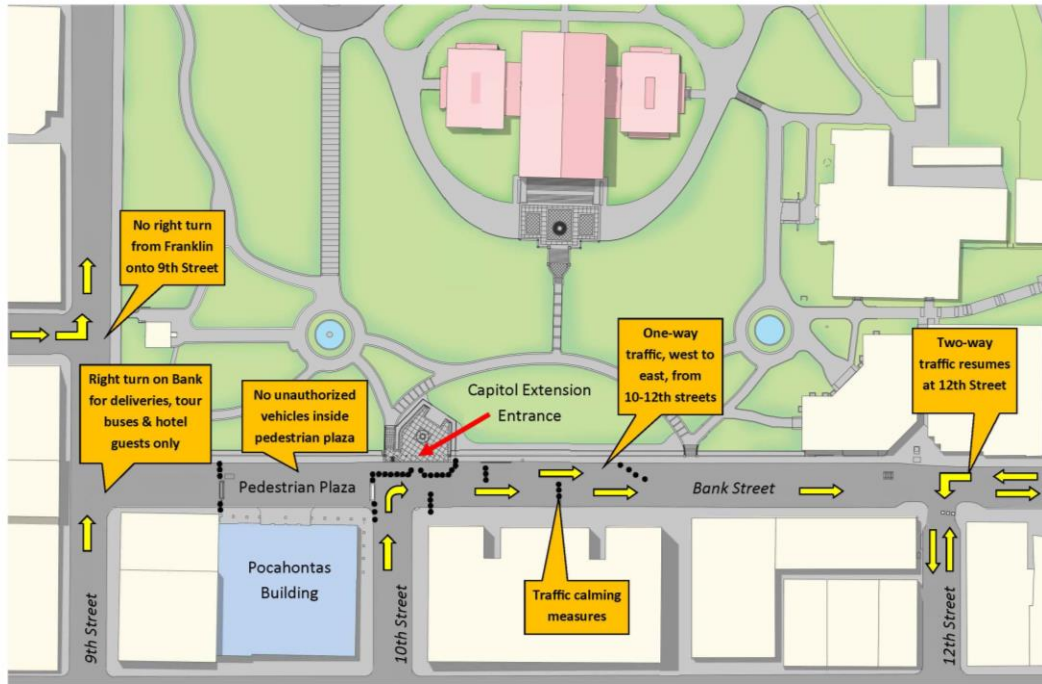
- Bank Street traffic will become one-way, from west to east, between 10th and 12th streets.
- Two-way traffic along Bank Street will resume east of 12th Street.
- Traffic calming measures will be placed on the north and south sides of Bank Street.
- There will be no access to Bank Street from Franklin Street.
- Right turns from 9th Street to Bank Street will be prohibited for all but hotel traffic, buses for Capitol Tours, and deliveries to Pocahontas Building.
- Capitol Police will control access to the pedestrian plaza through automatic gates.
- These measures will remain in place until sometime after the legislative session as determined by DGS and DCP and will be put in place in the same configuration and with the same restrictions each year while the General Assembly occupies the Pocahontas Building.

Additionally, we will put in place bike fencing along Main Street from 9th to 10th streets to protect pedestrians at the public entrance to the Pocahontas Building.

“A great deal of thought and planning went into this,” said **Col. Anthony S. Pike, the DCP chief**, “and I want to thank everyone in advance for their patience as we continue to work to improve the facilities in and around Capitol Square.”

“The safety of those who work and visit Capitol Square is our No. 1 priority,” said **Chris Beschler, Director of the Department of General Services**. “The measures we are taking strike a balance between keeping members of the public, legislators, state employees and others safe while also keeping open one of the main thoroughfares around Capitol Square.”

For more information, visit the DGS website at dgs.virginia.gov or Capitol Police at www.vcp.state.va.us.



PDF and JPEG versions of the map are attached.

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